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# The Bell Ringer

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MONTGOMERY BELL ACADEMY, NASHVILLE, TENNESSEE

APRIL 1981

## Readak Comes

### To MBA

By ROBERT COONEY

Since the middle of February a group of MBA students has been participating in a special program, called Readak, a developmental reading and study skills program out of New Orleans.

On December 9, the general reading ability of all Montgomery Bell students was tested through the Iowa Silent Reading Tests. Results were tabulated in early January and sent to parents. The course was then offered to students and explained to parents at a meeting held on February 3.

Readak is the largest reading service in the country. The course is designed "to make you a better student and a more efficient reader." The program is developmental so anyone, regardless of present reading level, could improve his reading ability. Most adults, according to Readak, do not practice critical reading and few people know important skills such as pre-reading fiction.

Topics of study as far as reading goes include physical and mental aspects of reading, pre-reading of articles, and techniques for effective reading. Study skills taught include aids to concentration, lectures, note taking, and preparation for tests. Students chart their own progress, and at the end of the course a final report is sent to the school.

When our students have completed the course, a second reading test will be given and compared to the first in order to gauge the student's improvement. Readak claims most students rise about 20 percentile points, which amounts to two grade levels. This improvement takes place in about 90 to 95 percent of the students.

The course takes 7 weeks or 24 class hours and has been taught by Carole Schimweg, a University of Missouri graduate who has taught this course in many fine preparatory schools. The program

## Winter Totomoi Tapping

By DON FAIRBAIRN

On Thursday, January 29, four members of the Class of 1981 were inducted into Totomoi, Montgomery Bell Academy's honorary fraternity.

Steve Hines, Matt Cassell, Anderson Spickard, and Mark Peffen became the newest members of Totomoi in the winter tapping session, during which traditionally only seniors are tapped. Each boy was selected because he had distinguished himself through outstanding service to the school during his years on The Hill.

Mr. Frank Novak, who last spring joined Mrs. Lowry, Mrs. Liles, and Mr. Rick Carter as the present faculty members honored with membership in Totomoi, presided over the tapping ceremonies. Mike Anderson and Don Fairbairn, two members of this year's senior class also inducted in the spring tapping last



On February 27, The Bell Ringer sponsored its second annual bicycle marathon. Story on page 4.

had a cost of \$195 and managed to draw a number of students, due to great flexibility in the time of classes.

Headmaster Gordon Bondurant explained that he had first encountered the program while at Darlington and that it was well known and well respected across the country. He felt that it would prove quite beneficial to those students who took the program.

Bondurant said that he thought the program would aid both the slower student as well as the advanced student, though he conceded in the long run, the better student might actually be helped more. Bondurant said he had sat in on a class and found that he was even picking up tips. A strong point surrounding the program, Bondurant said, was the discovery that our reading levels school-wide were one of the two highest ever measured by Readak.

Readak has been proven successful on a nation wide basis as our Headmaster noted, "it has been used at many old line preparatory schools." Closer to home it has been proven successful at Nashville's own Harpeth Hall. As far as MBA goes, however, the verdict is forthcoming.

year, performed the actual tapping of the new members.

Membership in Totomoi is the greatest honor an MBA student, alumnus, or faculty member can receive from the school. The organization was created by Dr. Richard L. Sager in 1954 in order to "promote the highest development of an MBA student." In order to qualify for membership in Totomoi, a student must demonstrate excellence in three or more of the following areas: scholarship, athletics, student government, organizations, forensics, dramatics, publications, and citizenship. In each of these fields, points are awarded on the basis of length of service, achievement, and leadership. In addition to earning the necessary number of points in the above areas, a student should demonstrate a love and loyalty for MBA and serve as an example and inspiration to other students.

## MBA-Harpeth Hall

### Host Alcohol Seminar

By Greg Carlsen

On February 16, 19, and 23, MBA and Harpeth Hall co-sponsored a three-part seminar dealing with "Myths and Realities of Teenagers and Alcohol."

Held at the Davis Auditorium on the Harpeth Hall campus, the seminar was designed to educate parents of students from both schools concerning the extent of teenage alcohol usage and various ways to prevent as well as cope with this ever-growing problem.

Dr. Anderson Spickard, professor of Internal Medicine at Vanderbilt University, organized the program series and brought in outstanding guest speakers. Dr. Spickard, an expert in the field of

alcoholism, has personally treated 150 alcoholics over the past fifteen years. Dr. John Greene, Divisional Director of Adolescent Medicine at Vanderbilt Hospital, handled the questioning when panel discussions were utilized.

The first session, "Extent of Teenage Drinking," dealt with the frequency of alcohol and drug use by teenagers. A student panel from MBA and Harpeth Hall consisting of Scotty Wallace, Sloan Burton, and Libs Schlatter, answered questions from the audience concerning use of alcohol at the two schools. Mike Donnelly, a reformed alcoholic and drug addict, related his high school experiences with alcohol and various narcotics. After dropping out of high school during his senior year, Mike was able to end his addictions with the help of Alcoholics Anonymous and Narcotics Anonymous. Following Mike Donnelly's comments, Mr. and Mrs. Hank related the story of their son Steve, who began drinking at age eight and was arrested repeatedly during his high school years for drunk driving and possession of alcohol. At Dr. Spickard's suggestion, Steve now lives at the New Pioneer House, an extremely successful alcohol and drug rehabilitation center in Minneapolis, Minnesota.

The second session, "Family Relationships and Teenage Drinking," dealt with the effects of alcoholism on the family unit. John North and Bunny Blankman, Director and Associated Director of Therapy at Cumberland Heights, were the guest speakers for this session. Mr. North described an alcoholic as "a person who allows problems to be caused repeatedly by drinking." He stressed that anyone who has a history of alcoholism in his or her family definitely should not drink. There is no proof of genetically contrived alcoholism; however, the statistical data taken by facilities such as the New Pioneer House and Cumberland Heights shows an enormous potential for drinking problems in families with histories of alcoholism.

Mrs. Blankman emphasized that alcoholism progresses much faster at early ages. She made clear the fact that alcoholism is a disease which must be kept in the open for help to be obtained. The two speakers said that through love and kindness, one can restore an alcoholic to normal life and sobriety.

The final program, "Where Do We Go From Here," revealed the various programs which are available to those who are the victims of chemical dependency. Mike Ricson, Director of Programs at New Pioneer House in Minneapolis, defines chemical dependency as "when (sic) an individual uses a substance to feel better and when they continue to use this substance in spite of adverse effects." Jane Nakken, a psychologist specializing in chemical dependency at New Pioneer House, said that the prime symptom of people who are

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## Academic Changes Proposed

By ROBERT COONEY

The possibility of changes in academic requirements especially with regard to next year's senior class has proven to be a major topic of discussion on the campus in the last month. In an effort to set the record straight, The Bell Ringer visited with Headmaster Gordon Bondurant to get some insight to any proposed changes as well as to try to better understand his educational philosophy with regards to the curriculum.

The Headmaster does not plan to require that students take five subjects next year. However he now encourages this practice and plans to continue to encourage it in the future.

Mr. Bondurant indicated a desire to have all students take speech, stressing that speech is of the utmost importance today. Bondurant stressed that the five subject program and the current TSSAA rules, which require students to pass four subjects, have no direct bearing on each other. He pointed out, however, that "taking five subjects could help some athletes out."

He stressed that he did not believe all students should put off speech until the Senior year,

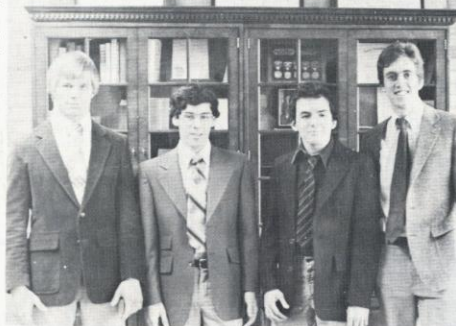
believing some students could take it even as early as the Freshman year.

Bondurant then pointed out that he would like to see more of our students take Computer. Again he cited the importance of computer in today's society. He hinted that sometime in the future computer might join speech as a required course, but even though it is not required he encourages it very strongly.

Mr. Bondurant then spoke of what would most likely happen if MBA did decide to move in the direction of five courses in the future. He said that a required fifth course would be like speech or computer, naming economics and psychology as other possibilities.

Bondurant stressed that though five subjects are not required, he would like to see students who can handle it take five subjects. "If they can get something out of it they should take it," he said. He is of the opinion that a student should not hide from an education, but should instead strive to get the best education he can. Bondurant used the purchasing of a car to make an analogy: "If you buy a car you will want to get everything out of it you can, it should be the same way with

(Continued on page 2)



New members of Totomoi. From left to right, they are Mark Peffen, Matt Cassell, Steve Hines, and Anderson Spickard.



## In Loco Parentis At MBA?

By TOM WOOD

It is time for a definite school policy to be set on a topic which concerns every MBA student in the upper grades: student conduct on private time; i.e., off-campus, in activities in no way involving one's status as an MBA student. The administration now seems to think it has the right to assume responsibility for student behavior on private time—to dictate to the student body its moral guidelines on a 24-hour basis.

If MBA is to adopt the *In Loco Parentis* philosophy on which schools like Brentwood Academy are founded, so be it. I am not debating its merits here, debatable though they may be. But Montgomery Bell Academy owes it to us all to set its policy. Is private time the inalienable domain of the individual, with which to expound his depravity as he will? Or can the school tell him what is right and wrong on a 24-hour basis?

Don't misunderstand me. I am not supporting behavior unbecoming a gentleman at any time. This can be a disgrace to the school; I would certainly find it hard to be proud of my institution if I were a student at a local public high school and read daily of my classmates' arrests on drug-related burglary charges. We owe it to each other and the school to comport ourselves as gentlemen at

all times. On the other hand, I'm not conceding that it is the administration's right to make any sweeping changes in school policy without some sort of student referendum. MBA is the students, after all; the administration's authority is derived from students and parents.

This is what every student is entitled to: a firm statement of the school's position—a policy that works equitably for every student and prevents any double standard. The matter needs to be discussed, so that the administration and students can understand each other's positions. The underlying problem is a question of how much authority the administration has to impose what it deems proper upon the student body. If the administration is all-powerful, it must as well be all-responsible—responsible for the hiring of an incompetent teacher, responsible for gross miscarriages of justice in the "honor" council, and responsible for the existence of a high-pressure working environment which can only be deleterious to morale and discouraging to ambition. If the administration is omnipotent and the students powerless to resist the imposition of such unbearable inequities, I don't think I'm the only MBA student who will, to quote Keith Richards, "Walk . . . Before they make me run."

## Schedule Changes For 1981-1982

By JEFF PATTERSON

Several changes have been instituted for the 1981-1982 school year at MBA, but having exams before Christmas is not one of these.

This fall, classes will begin on August 27. When asked to explain the reasons we start so early, Mr. Drake said that in previous years, MBA had not maintained a consistent starting date with other schools. Over the past few years, the process of changing MBA's disposition had been initiated (Do you remember when we started on September 14?) Another reason for the early start is the school's attempt to equalize the lengths of both semesters. Mr. Drake noted that this idea was especially important in those courses which deal with two different concepts each semester.

In explaining why exams are not before Christmas, Mr. Drake said that the attempt to equalize semester lengths was a factor again. It would damage the hope of balancing semesters to the point that we might have to start even earlier. Teachers would have to grade the exams directly after they had been taken (a meeting by the faculty must take place, also). When asked about the possibility of allowing the teachers to grade the exams after Christmas vacation,

Mr. Drake commented that such a policy would be "bad administrative procedure."

The *Bell Ringer* asked Mr. Drake if it was his personal belief that it would ever be an institution at MBA to have exams before Christmas. He said that he did not foresee its occurrence but that it could be possible if the students really wanted to do it. It would only be accomplished if the students came together and made provisions for the problems involved. He mentioned that the lack of desire for it among faculty members was exemplified when a vote was taken and the comfortable majority were in favor of maintaining our present policy.

There was much discussion this year about the fact that there were only three-and-a-half days of school after Christmas vacation before exams. When asked about this problem, Mr. Drake replied that there indeed had been a policy change and that next year we had more than a week of school days.

He added that he does not believe that the possibility of having only three-and-a-half days again still exists.

Commenting on the possibility of a longer grading period, he said that the idea of a nine-week grading period had been brought up and considered but was eventually dropped. Mr. Drake also added that there was an attempt in making next year's schedule to equalize the lengths of the grading periods.

When asked about the possibility of having two exams in one day, Mr. Drake pointed out that the teachers wanted strongly to have three-hour exams because it was felt (especially among foreign language teachers) that only an insufficient amount of material could be covered in a two-hour exam. If we were to have three-hour exams, it would be practically infeasible to have two exams in one day.

Classes begin	August 27
Homecoming	October 16
Thanksgiving Holidays	Nov. 25-7
Christmas Holidays	Dec. 18-Jan. 4
First semester Exams	Jan. 15-22
Spring Holidays	March 11-23
Second Semester Exams	May 20-7
Commencement	May 29

## Academic Changes Proposed

(Continued from page 1)

an education." He emphasized that here your parents were spending a good deal of money and why shouldn't both the parents and the student get their money's worth.

As far as the role a student's course selection plays in the college admission process, Mr. Bondurant had this to say: "The colleges know our program, they know our requirements and they know our transcripts." He made the point that in the future an increment would be given to students taking advanced placement and

honor's courses when determining class rank. Bondurant seemed to indicate that this would serve as a further enticement to students to take the best courses they can.

The Headmaster felt that in the area of science and the humanities MBA has as good a program as any school in the country. It is what he termed the "skills courses," where MBA could improve. It is in this group that he places speech, computer and other such courses.

With respect to the opinion of the faculty toward his program, Bondurant expressed great optimism. He said "that one of the things I like most about MBA is the

dynamics of the Faculty." He stressed the importance of sharing opinions and getting other's ideas into the picture. Discussion among faculty is he says, "one of the most important aspects of an institution." "Naturally," he adds, "you will see some opposition to change."

For now it appears that academic requirements and course structure for next year will be basically the same as this year's. And if the feelings of the Headmaster are any indication, MBA will be at the top not just in academics but across the boards for many years to come.

## Letters To The Editors

To the Editors:

Because of the Bondurant administration, the campus looks much better than it has in previous years. On the whole, the scoreboards, shrubs, etc. improve the campus a great deal. Never have I seen the campus looking better in all my years at MBA. Determination and hard work on the part of everyone, however, are necessary to keep the campus looking great. Obviously, a clean school makes a much better learning atmosphere. Since the clean-up, many things have changed. Underneath, it is the

same MBA; but on the surface, it is much nicer. Consequently, this has been my best year at MBA. Keeping the campus clean will certainly be one of my major objectives. Subsequently, I feel Mr. Bondurant deserves our thanks.

Chris Chamberlain

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## MBA Alumni Discuss Colleges

By MARTIN BROWN

In a series of correspondence interviews with *The Bell Ringer*, MBA graduates David Puett and Randy Henderson expressed their thoughts concerning MBA's preparation of young men for college and about life at their respective colleges, Dartmouth and Princeton.

Dartmouth and Princeton are two Ivy League colleges in the Northeast with some similarities. Both colleges date from the eighteenth century and are now coeducational. Also, both universities have less than 6,000 students and accept less than thirty percent of their applicants. Thus, Dartmouth and Princeton are two of the most difficult colleges to enter in the country.

Yet, Princeton and Dartmouth have several differences. First, Princeton recommends applicants complete four years of high school English, four years of mathematics, four years of one foreign language, two years of a laboratory science, and two years of a social science. On the other hand, Dartmouth looks more for the quality of the applicant's work than its specific content. Second, Princeton is only fifty miles from New York City and Philadelphia; whereas, Dartmouth epitomizes small town New England life offering many forms of recreation like skiing and whitewater canoeing. Finally, Princeton operates on the semester system, but Dartmouth operates on the Dartmouth Plan, a unique quarter system that requires all students attend at least one summer term in college.

**The Bell Ringer:** What is the main reason you chose your college?

David Puett: I wanted to go to a school in the Northeast with strong academics. I saw a few schools and liked what I saw in Dartmouth most.

Randy Henderson: Princeton is one of the better undergraduate schools in the country. The history department is very strong, and I have been very interested in history even in high school. The English and physics are also very strong. The school also has a good location, a short way from the cultural centers of Philadelphia and New York.

**The Bell Ringer:** What similarities and differences exist between MBA and Princeton-Dartmouth?

David Puett: It is extremely difficult to compare MBA and Dartmouth. There is so much more to college than simply the classroom and the school day. However, I would say that the most noticeable difference between the two is the informality of the college learning atmosphere. Nonetheless,

I guarantee that if you can hold on to the learning skills taught at MBA, this change will be not only very enjoyable but also very stimulating.

Randy Henderson: Both MBA and Princeton are demanding institutions of "higher learning," so to speak. Both schools consist primarily of students whose parents are "upper class." To a degree, both schools are shielded from the outside world. Both MBA and Princeton reward achievement; however, Princeton also rewards originality. In other words, young artists, whether they play the piano, write short stories, or paint landscapes, are encouraged to develop their abilities. MBA is a rigidly structured college preparatory school which stresses the basics. Princeton is a place for nurturing, for exploring different interests, and for finding some purpose in one's life. Frankly, it is also a place for confusion, uncertainty, and an introduction to reality. Schools like MBA exist to prepare students for Princeton. Princeton exists to prepare students for life, although the preparation is not necessarily thorough or meaningful. After all, just as at MBA, one gets out of college what he puts into it.

**The Bell Ringer:** What is the student-teacher relationship like at your college as compared to that at MBA?

David Puett: The relationship with teachers is better at a small college like Dartmouth than at other colleges, but it is not as good as at MBA. All Dartmouth faculty are professors with degrees rather than graduate students working toward degrees.

Randy Henderson: Princeton students are probably more satisfied with their faculty than students at any other college. Virtually all courses are taught by professors with degrees. The lectures are very good, and teachers are available to help students at all times.

**The Bell Ringer:** Do you think MBA provided sufficient preparation for your college career?

David Puett: MBA certainly provided an excellent preparation for Dartmouth. I will admit MBA's teaching program is very structured, and I did my share of complaining about it. However, I now realize its full value. I have found the discipline and study skills that I learned at MBA to be of tremendous help at Dartmouth.

Randy Henderson: I believe MBA prepared me for Princeton in three significant ways. First, though it may seem trivial, I was introduced to outside reading in history and English courses at MBA. The ability to read quite a bit of material and pick up the key points is very important since the amount of outside reading in college is very great. Second, the English teachers at MBA helped



Members of the junior class visit the University of Virginia.

me develop my ability to write analytical essays. In college, one must be able to research an idea and organize a coherent set of points proving a thesis statement. Finally, at MBA I developed good study habits. The workload was usually so great that I had to use my time wisely or suffer the consequences.

**The Bell Ringer:** Is there any aspect of MBA which you would have liked to have seen changed in order to better prepare you for college?

David Puett: My only concern with the MBA program is the lack of student diversification. Forming relationships with a wide variety of people is an important part of college life. I am sorry the MBA environment is so limited. Indeed, I think opening the school to girls would be a very positive step in the right direction.

Randy Henderson: I cannot think of any one aspect of MBA which I would change. Perhaps a greater emphasis should be placed on completing four years of a language so that one could place out of a college language requirement. I believe MBA should make a typing course mandatory. Ironically, my one recommendation would be to reduce somehow the academic tension or pressure without hurting the quality of an MBA education.

**The Bell Ringer:** How important are athletics at Dartmouth-Princeton?

David Puett: Dartmouth has a reputation as an athletic college. The majority of the students are involved in some form of athletics, which are required in the first year.

Randy Henderson: It is easy to participate in athletics, and such participation is required in the first semester. One half of the students are involved in some form of varsity sport.

**The Bell Ringer:** How important are the fraternities at your college?

David Puett: Fraternities are important for the social life at Dartmouth. About one half of the students are members. However,

students are not rushed into fraternities in their freshman year.

Randy Henderson: At Princeton, there are no fraternities. Instead, there are dining clubs for juniors and seniors. Only a few of the clubs are selective; the others chose members by random drawing.

**The Bell Ringer:** What is the most special aspect of your college to you?

David Puett: What first attracted me to Dartmouth, and I guess what I find most special about it, is its close link with the outdoors. In New Hampshire, fall is a time for mountain climbing and hiking, winter a time for skiing, and spring a time for whitewater canoeing. This opportunity to take advantage of what the outdoors has to offer, one I had not had before, was an attraction I could not pass up.

Randy Henderson: The most special aspect of Princeton for me is the school's obsession with its heritage. There is an aura about this school which is hard to explain. Frankly, I probably could have gotten as good an education at several other schools, but Princeton offers big-name faculty and noted speakers. The school gives the student a great deal of freedom to pursue his own interests. I enjoy and, to a degree, worry about this absolute freedom. However, I know the experience will be good for me.

## Junior Class Visits Southeastern Colleges

By ROBERT COONEY

The junior college trip over Spring break proved to be profitable for the 28 students, who, accompanied by Mr. Drake and Mr. Pruitt, left on Mar. 15. Most of the first day was taken up with a ten hour bus ride to Lexington, Virginia. There the students stayed at a hotel in town and ate supper at Washington and Lee. The following morning, they attended classes at W and L and toured VMI. Here we got a closehand look at the conservative and I mean conservative philosophy of education. On the tour, shouts of "don't come here" could be heard. Later in the day we arrived at Virginia in Charlottesville where the historic rotunda and surrounding buildings caught most people's attention. After a short trip to Monticello, we rode on to Hampden—Sydney College where we spent the night. A highlight here is the new 4 million dollar athletic complex which somehow seems out of place on this small rural campus.

Tues. Mar. 17 brought visits to Duke, North Carolina, and St. Andrews College. At Duke, we were greeted by MBA alumnus Porter Durham, now President of the Student body at Duke. Having spent a few hours at Duke, and Carolina we rode to Laurinburg, N.C. and St. Andrews.

The campus has a lake in the center and contains extremely large science facilities and labs in such a very small school. Our accommodations, here, in a retreat lodge, were by far the nicest.

On the way back to Nashville on Wednesday March 18, we visited our final college, Davidson. That night, the weekend tour of eight colleges in four days ended.

The trip gave the juniors who went a chance to view a variety of colleges and philosophies of education. This experience should be an aid in the making of that important decision later. Everyone seemed to have fun and some even said it wasn't a bad substitute for Florida after all.

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## Second Annual Ski Trip

By MARTIN BROWN

On Friday afternoon February sixth, sixteen M.B.A. boys and thirteen Harpeth Hall girls set out in a chartered bus to conquer the ski slopes of Wolf Laurel, North Carolina. Mr. Womack, Dr. Niemeyer, and the Harpeth Hall advisors, Dr. Marney and Mrs. Evans, also came on this escape from the usual weekend at home.

The outing clubs sponsored this second annual ski trip, another joint activity between M.B.A. and Harpeth Hall.

Before leaving Nashville, all of the students loaded the rented skis on the bus at Neptune Equipment Company. Two ski instructors joined us there for the ride to Asheville, North Carolina.

The trip was soon in jeopardy, however, because engine troubles filled the bus with smoke. While we wondered if we would be able to ski, a fantastic mechanic at a very isolated service station rebuilt part of the engine to get us underway. After dinner in Knoxville, we rode to Asheville's Great Smoky Mountain Hilton, where all of the skiers spent both nights.

On Saturday, the skiers set out to tackle the slopes. As we left from snowless Asheville, we wondered what the conditions one hour away at Wolf Laurel would be. However, to our relief, nine inches of new snow had fallen two days earlier. "The skiing was outstanding," said Hale Hooper, "we could find fresh snow on every run." Some of the beginners took lessons and others taught themselves. Harpeth Hall senior Ginny Adkins said she had taken lessons in Nashville, but she learned mostly by experience on the real snow. Others tried some unbelievably challenging expert slopes. Everyone ate lunch in the lodge at the bottom of the slopes and headed out to conquer more difficult runs in the afternoon. Staying on the mountain until the chairlifts closed, we returned to the bus with only one injured skier, freshman Ken Roberts.

We recuperated in the hotel and ate dinner at several local



Anderson Spickard attempts to negotiate the bike course on a tricycle.

restaurants. After dinner, the advisors threw a party in the lobby for us, and we sat in front of the fire and talked about the skiing before going to our rooms.

On Sunday, everyone attempted more difficult runs. The icier slopes and biting wind made the skiing more challenging. However, the chairlift lines were very short, and we skied more of the mountain. As the day progressed, many skiers jumped some moguls and took more rides. Perry Killam and Hale Hooper raced down the slopes, and both Gary Asher and Paul Tidwell headed dangerously straight down the mountain on the last run. After conquering the slopes of Wolf Laurel, we got ready for the long bus ride home.

We stopped the bus only in Knoxville for dinner on the way back to Nashville. Almost everyone tried to sleep a little on the bus before arriving at M.B.A. after 10:00.

The advisors are already planning for next year, and Lulu Rogers, the Harpeth Hall outing club president, said the students enjoyed the trip. Rumors of a week-long trip to Colorado for next year spread at M.B.A., but Mr. Womack said, "we will probably go to Indiana's Starlight ski resort."

Now that the weekend on the slopes is over, M.B.A. ski enthusiasts will have to wait another year for the outing club's trip.



## Outing Club Hikes Mill Ridge

By MARTIN BROWN

On Friday March sixth, nine hearty hikers left Nashville for Montreat, North Carolina to experience the Outing Club's fourteenth-mile excursion of Mill Ridge.

After spending the night at Mr. Womack's house in Montreat without the comforts of lights and water, Charlie Cox, Aaron Isherwood, Gordon Strayhorn, Curry Hall, Bert Chaffin, Mike Hughes, Paul Tidwell, Mr. Pruitt, and Mr. Womack began the drive towards Hot Springs, north of Asheville. Upon arrival at Stackhouse mountain on the French Broad River, one of Mr. Womack's friends joined the Outing Club for the ride to Hurricane Gap on the Appalachian Trail. The hike followed a part of the Appalachian Trail on the Tennessee-North Carolina border in the Pisgah mountains, a range north of the Smoky Mountains.

The hikers climbed a fire tower on Rich Mountain from which they could see their campsite at Mill Ridge. Mt. Guyot in the Smokies, and Mt. Mitchell, the highest point east of the Mississippi River. Everyone made one long descent and one short ascent before arriving at the campsite. After dinner, Mr. Pruitt made his first successful fudge, which Aaron Isherwood claimed tasted like concrete. That night, the hikers bundled up in anticipation of snow and a fiercely cold night, which did not come. Instead, it seemed to become warmer later in the night, and without the moon, every star in the Southern sky was visible.

On Sunday, the hikers left from Mill Ridge toward the town of Hot Springs, North Carolina with Mr. Pruitt carrying a pink purse. (He claimed he could see better with it.) The trail followed Lover's Leap Ridge, which runs parallel to the French Broad River, 1000 feet above it. Upon reaching Hot Springs, everyone ate lunch and prepared to return to Nashville.

The Outing Club's last major trip this year will be a raft trip down the Chattooga River on the last Saturday and Sunday in April. At this point in this year, forty different students have taken advantage of trip offerings an average of two times. Mr. Womack, the club advisor, is already planning excursions into the wild for next year.

## Cyclones Capture Bike Race

By MARK PEFFEN

On Friday, February 27, the sophomore team "The Cyclones" won the second annual Bell Ringer Bicycle Marathon.

The winning team consisting of sophomores Brooks Corzine, John Dale, Kent Rollins, and Steve Shankle endured the grueling, cross-campus race well enough to finish with a time of 28 minutes, 58.89 seconds. This time bettered by over two minutes the previous course record set last year by the "Road Hackers." The defending champion Road Hackers, juniors Grimsley, Jones, Stevens, and Hughes, finished second with a time of 30:46.48. The surprise third-place finishers were Sharpe Hassle, Rafalowski, and Heer, the team representing the Debate

squad, with a time of 30:48.51.

The race consisted of 16 laps around a course running along the campus driveway, across the MBA creek, and around the microbe athletic field. The total distance of the race was 7.46 miles.

One of the highlights of the race was the entrance of a faculty team of Herring, Pruitt, Zenanko, and Williams which, despite 1,000,000 to one odds, managed to finish sixth out of nine teams. Other highlights included the one man team of Anderson Spickard, who successfully completed three laps on a tricycle.

This year's bike race proved to be a great success, and with both the top two teams returning next year, the bike race should be one of the highlights of the spring in future years.



Kevin Drury, Alex Grimsley, and Ed Brown stage a card game during MBA's production of Antigone.

## MBA Students Active In Drama

By KEVIN DRURY

This is a busy time in local high school theatre. Three plays with MBA students have been performed recently and one is coming up soon. A total of over one thousand people turned out to see St. Cecilia's delightful and touching presentation of Rodgers and Hammerstein's fabulous musical, "Carousel." MBA students in the show included Ed Brown, Frank Andrews, Kevin Drury, Drew Moore, Montie Davis, and Jordan Asher. The leads, Michael Marchetti and Shannon Carver, acted well and sang marvelously.

The fantastic sets added a lot to the show. They were designed by Mark Locklund, a local interior designer. Rob Bomar and Mike Hughes from MBA were on the set crew. "Carousel" was choreographed by Patti Barrett-Wright. Pat Killough was the Musical Director. "Carousel" was directed by professional actors and directors, Paul Klapper, he was assisted by Carol Pendergrass.

On March 5th and 6th, The MBA Players presented Lewis Galantieri's adaptation of Jean Anouilh's play, "Antigone" a modern version of Sophocles' tragedy. Corinne Rentz of St.

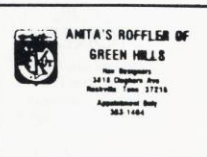
Cecilia gave an excellent performance in the title role. MBA students included Jody Lentz, David McMackin, Hale Hooper, Ed Brown, Alex Grimsley, Kevin Drury, Kirk Francis, and Atit Desai. The cast also included Kris Fishburn from St. Cecilia and Kathy Fairbairn and Penelope Logan from Harpeth Hall. Lighting was executed by Roger Peek. Mr. James Poston directed. "Antigone" was well-received by a total of about five hundred people.

On March 20th and 21st St. Bernard gave a thoroughly enjoyable presentation of "Little Nell," a melodrama presented in dinner theatre format. Jody Lentz performed well as Carlton Bainbridge.

Harpeth Hall presented "The Night of January 16th" on April tenth and eleventh as part of Arts Week. This murder-mystery has two possible endings depending upon who is found guilty by a jury made up of members of the audience. Members of the cast from MBA included Ed Brown, Alex Grimsley, Frank Andrews, Jordan Asher, Ridley Wills, David Edwards, Ally Fuqua and Don Fish. Local high schools present some excellent entertainment, don't miss it!

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Mr. Jefferson shows his prowess during the donkey basketball game on April 3.

## Alcohol Seminar

(Continued from page 1)  
chemically dependent is "constant denial." The person will vehemently deny that he has any problem whatsoever with alcohol or drugs.

The New Pioneer House, founded thirty-one years ago, is the oldest adolescent treatment center in the country; the center specializes in the treatment of young people who have become chemically dependent. Throughout treatment, the individual must agree not to use any type of mood-altering substance. If this rule is broken, the patient will be excused from the

program. The person must be willing to make a serious commitment to giving up his or her habit.

Nakken was very enthusiastic about having teachers from Harpeth Hall and MBA train to become inner-school counselors dealing with alcohol and drug related problems. Mr. Bondurant expressed interest in forming parent awareness seminars, youth rap sessions, parent-student meetings, and private individual counseling for parents and students.

Following the lectures given by Mike Ericson and Jane Nakken, Mrs. Peggy Groos, mother of four teenage children, shared her knowledge in the field of prevention of alcohol and drug abuse.

Having spoken to several parents, Mr. Bondurant believes that the parents will have a broader outlook on the problem of teenage drinking and the ways to seek help for a drinking problem in the family as a result of the seminar.

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## Tom Crain Expresses Opinions About MBA

By TOM WOOD

On January 12, 1981, The Bell Ringer talked with Tom Crain, guitarist for the Charlie Daniels Band and a 1969 graduate of Montgomery Bell Academy. The following is the first half of the two-part interview, in which Crain talks about MBA and his music on the eve of the CDB's annual rock-fest, the Volunteer Jam. Jam VII featured Molly Hatchet, Billy Joel, Ted Nugent, Roy Acuff, and the Marshall Tucker Band, and the band departed thereafter for a two-week tour of Australia.

**The Bell Ringer:** What were your main interests while you were at MBA?

Tom Crain: Well, it's funny, but I started out as a football player. I didn't even take up guitar until right before my seventh-grade year. I really liked Coach Owen; he's a good man. I played microbe and junior varsity—I never got to varsity because by the time I did, I was more seriously into music. I also played basketball. At that time, we didn't have much in the way of baseball; I was into track. And I was in the choir—the glee club we called it then.

**The Bell Ringer:** Were you in a fraternity?

Tom Crain: I was an Alpha Chi. Yeah, boy, I remember that initiation—man, they whooped my ass!

**The Bell Ringer:** Do you recall any faculty members in particular?

Tom Crain: Gosh, there were so many of them. Is Mrs. Carter still there? There was a Mrs. Lentz that I really liked, and of course Mrs. Lowry. I always liked Mr. Carter. He was a nice fellow. But back when I went to school was right when hairstyles were getting a little longer and bell-bottom jeans were just coming in. That caused some conflict.

**The Bell Ringer:** How did you do in Mrs. Lowry's Algebra?

Tom Crain: I passed. Man, she was really hard. I wasn't too hot in English; I was more into Algebra.

**The Bell Ringer:** What kind of music did you listen to when you were at MBA?

Tom Crain: Hendrix, Cream . . . I was into the blues back then, too. I used to listen to a lot of Michael Bloomfield's stuff.

**The Bell Ringer:** You graduated in 1969, when Woodstock and Hendrix were the talk of the music world. How much did that influence your music?

Tom Crain: Well, Hendrix came out when I was about a sophomore. I played some of that kind of music

back then. We used to play some of the combos after the football games down in the gym.

**The Bell Ringer:** What type of music influenced yours?

Tom Crain: I've liked so many different groups through the years; I guess the most significant influences would be Mac Gayden and Barefoot Jerry. I became real good friends with them just when I started writing.

**The Bell Ringer:** Where did your music's bucolic influence come from?

Tom Crain: I'd call it Tennessee folk music, because most of it is about people and places around here, most of my totally original songs are. "Cumberland Mountain Number Nine" was written back when I was hanging around with Barefoot Jerry. I was an old Smokies Freak—used to go camping up there 3 or 4 times a year, even in high school. That's where I got some of my ideas for "Franklin Limestone," "Tennessee," and songs like that. "Blind Man" was written about Cortelia Clark. He was this old, black, blind man who used to sit on Fifth and Main in Franklin with a tin cup and play the guitar. Somebody found him; they took him in and cut an album, then he died a couple of years later.

**The Bell Ringer:** Where did the hard-rock influence of "Lonesome Boy From Dixie" come from?

Tom Crain: That was influenced more or less by my association with Henry Paul and the Outlaws—the kind of chords I'm playing and the feel. My brother Billy plays for the Henry Paul Band and I've been around with them so much that he sort of inspired me to write that with a hard-rock flavor.

**The Bell Ringer:** How did you become associated with Charlie Daniels?

Tom Crain: Charlie moved here about '66 and played on Dylan's Nashville Skyline as a studio musician. First time I ever met him, I was in a group called The Flat Creek Band, with my brother Billy. We played a show down at War Memorial Auditorium, and we were supposed to play with Blue Oyster Cult. They couldn't make it and Charlie was with Joe Sullivan, as we were, so he played it with us. Then a year later, I was in a different band, Buckeye, and we were the opening act for the first Volunteer Jam (October 4, 1974). After Fire on the Mountain came out, Charlie decided to put together another band, and he gave me a call.

**The Bell Ringer:** What kind of music do you listen to when you are at home?

Tom Crain: All kinds of stuff. I go through different moods. I listen to Steely Dan, the Doobies, and jazz—Tom Scott, Dave Brubeck, stuff like that. And I still listen to the Allman Brothers and Marshall Tucker. I don't listen to us much, unless it's something new.

**The Bell Ringer:** What do you think of new wave music?

Tom Crain: There are very few bands I like in new wave. I like Talking Heads. Yeah, I don't know why, just do. Most of the new wave music really doesn't say anything, though. I like songs that tell a story, something that you can listen to and picture what's going on when they're singing. It kills me how many songs on the radio all say "Oh baby I miss you and I'm on the road and I want to come home." They all say the same thing, but they don't say nothing. I like Charlie's writing because of the very vivid image he gives when he writes a song.

**The Bell Ringer:** What do you think of Heavy Metal? of Ted Nugent?

Tom Crain: Nugent's one of the nicest guys I've ever met in my life. I don't particularly care for his kind of music. It's so loud, man, it'll damage your hearing. I mean, we play loud, but his stuff is just incredible!

**The Bell Ringer:** What about Black Sabbath, The Scorpions, etc.?

Tom Crain: Naw, man, to me that is just noise music. Those guys are definitely on a death trip.

**The Bell Ringer:** Will you ever join your brother in a band?

Tom Crain: Oh yeah. You can quote me. There will be another Crain Brothers Band. That's one of my big dreams. We're both with the same management, just different bands. And it's real good experience to be apart, and then later on in a few years when we get time and Charlie doesn't need me so much, I'm gonna go in and cut an album with Billy. If we're not touring with Charlie, then I'll put together a band and tour. We play real similar style of guitar. If I played in the Henry Paul Band, I'd be playing more rock-'n-roll than I do now. He can play. I'd call him a rock star. He looks like a rock star; he's all over the stage.

**The Bell Ringer:** A little like Ted Nugent?

Tom Crain: Not that bad. And he plays about ten times better than Ted Nugent. Billy's got good stage presence, but it's not a put-on, and his playing's not a put-on at all. Nobody sounds like him.

**The Bell Ringer:** Finally, what advice would you have for those who aspire to "make it" in music?

Tom Crain: I would say, "keep practicing," but don't count on making it. You've got to have your goals. I've always said "I'm gonna make it," and I knew I would. But if it hadn't worked out, I'd be doing something else. The education is valuable; I'm glad I stayed in school.

Next issue: Life in the glittering world of rock-'n-roll.

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## Varsity Basketball Completes Disappointing Season

By TIM FORD

Despite suffering a number of defeats, the Varsity Basketball team has played well against much taller and more talented teams this year.

After being beaten by Ryan on Dec. 19, the Big Red hosted University School the following night. Not only did the Big Red beat U.S.N., they virtually annihilated them by a score of 84-53. Anderson Spickard led the scoring for the Big Red as he sacked 17. Sophomore Terry Watterson came off the bench and burned the nets for 10. The 60 percent field goal shooting was the team's best for the year.

After the win over U.S.N., M.B.A. hosted Lipscomb. A fired-up Big Red, led by the emotionally charged Wade Smith, defeated the Mustangs 61-58. Smith tallied 11 and hit a series of crucial free throws to put the game on ice for the Big Red. Spickard led all scorers with 22 and Mike Anderson played one of his better games as he popped in 15 and sucked up 13 rebounds.

Next for the Big Red was a trip to Antioch. The Bears jumped out to a 35-27 halftime lead, but the Big Red clawed its way back into the game in third quarter, but costly tur-

novers and missed free throws led to a 66-53 loss for M.B.A. Spickard led the scoring for the Big Red with 14 and Tune and Caldwell pumped in 11 and 9 respectively.

The Big Red then traveled to Goodpasture and played rather poorly, suffering an 85-64 defeat. Spickard's 26 points was the lone highlight for the team.

After suffering a loss to Hillsboro, the Big Red challenged the highly touted Goodpasture team. Once again, M.B.A. jumped on top of the Cougars 36-25 at halftime but squandered away the game as Goodpasture held the Big Red to just 11 second half points to claim a 48-47 win over M.B.A. Spickard, Smith, and Anderson led the Big Red scoring with 13, 11 and 11 respectively.

Following the heartbreak loss to Goodpasture, the Big Red regrouped and traveled to Glencliff for a district contest. As is usual, the Big Red was given "no chance" by area reporters but M.B.A. proved skeptics wrong once again. M.B.A. slugged to a 29-27 intermission advantage due mainly to the hot-shooting Spickard who connected for 17 first half points. Glencliff came back and led for most of the second half but the Big Red fought back and

went up by one with 17 seconds left in the game. Glencliff hurried down court and threw in a garbage basket as the buzzer sounded giving the Colts a 44-43 victory.

After a loss to Overton, M.B.A. traveled to Lipscomb. A large crowd saw the Mustangs trim the Big Red 61-53. Spickard's 18 points, and "Sly" Anderson's 14 points and 7 rebounds led the Big Red.

Following a loss to Ryan, the Big Red met a highly rated Hillwood team at Curry Gymnasium.

The Big Red proved to be equal to the task as they ripped the Toppers 55-51.

Spickard led all scorers with a season high 29 points. Anderson and Ken "Brown Brown" Nichols filled the hole for 8 points apiece, and Mike Johnson came off the bench and added six.

After a 67-57 loss to Antioch, the Big Red traveled to Pearl to play the Tigers, the number 5 team in the state at the time. The Tigers posted a 38-31 double overtime victory over the Big Red in what was supposed to be a blowout for Pearl. Pearl held the ball for a 23-20 halftime lead as the Big Red played tough defensively. In the second half, M.B.A. refused to fold and Pearl stalled for almost the



Terry Watterson releases a shot as Clay Young prepares for the rebound.

entire fourth quarter. The Tigers' strategy failed as Mike Anderson rammed home several clutch baskets, both in regulation and overtime. An incredible amount of luck turned the tables for Pearl as they pulled away in the second overtime to claim a victory.

M.B.A. traveled to Hendersonville where the Commandos dominated most of the game pulling out a lopsided victory over the Big Red.

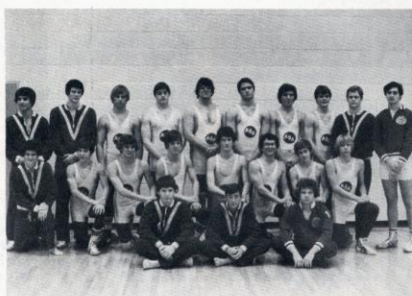
After a loss to Hillsboro, M.B.A. hosted B.G.A. in the Big Red's final home game of the season.

Poor shooting and costly turnovers proved to be the factor in a

48-41 loss for the Big Red. Spickard marked 14 and Smith and Caldwell tallied 12 and 6 respectively.

The District Tournament was the next challenge for the Big Red as they faced Pearl in the opening round. M.B.A. hung tough in the early going, but a highly-talented group of Tigers sped by the Big Red to win 75-34 in the season finale for the team.

Although this year's Basketball team compiled an unimpressive 4-20 record, the Big Red proved that they could play with teams that were much taller and more talented.



The District Championship Wrestling Team.

## Varsity Wrestlers Win District Crown

By DON BROTHERS

This year's varsity wrestling team has been the most successful team in the school's history despite a rather slow start.

The season opener with Hillwood wound up in a rather disappointing tie highlighted by sophomore Kent Rollins' 11 sec. pin. The following weekend, the team faced some of the toughest competition in the

### Microbe Wrestling

By BO OXFORD and STEVE ROLLINS

The Microbe Wrestling team, coached by Mr. Gaither and Jerry Patterson, finished the year with three wins, two losses, and one tie.

Lead by team captains Bo Oxford and Steven Rollins, the team started out the season with two big wins over North Side and B.G.A. A loss to Brentwood Academy followed. The following week the team came back from behind to tie 36 to 36 with F.R.A. After a disappointing loss to Ensworth, the team gained an overwhelming win over Nashville Christian School (NCS). The following wrestlers placed in the H.V.A.C. tournament at the end of the season.

82 lb. David Claunch	2nd
95 lb. Howard Tidwell	3rd
107 lb. Paul Soper	4th
120 lb. Bob Ledyard	2nd
133 lb. Steven Rollins	1st
140 lb. Steve Saperstein	4th
HWT. Paul Richards	2nd

Steven Rollins led the Little Big Red Team by capturing the 133 lb. class. Bo Oxford would have easily won the 75 lb. class but was disqualified. The members of the Microbe Wrestling team should prove to be an asset to the wrestling program in future years because although the team did not have much experience, they showed a lot of desire and willingness to learn.

state at the Chattanooga City Tournament. Junior Mark Garfinkel captured third place. The wrestlers returned home to lose a disappointing match to archrival Father Ryan. That next weekend was the Overton Invitational Tournament. Because of a slow start, the team wasn't expected to place, and as expected, only a few individuals placed. Finishing first was Mark Garfinkel, and John Dale and Kent Rollins received second and third place honors, respectively.

During Christmas Break the wrestlers held two-a-day practices. In these two weeks, coaches Williams and Gaither turned the program around. On the Tuesday they returned to school, the wrestlers beat perennial power Franklin at Franklin, giving the team confidence going into the Ryan Invitational Tournament. The team wasn't expected to place but surprised a lot of people by capturing fourth. Individuals placers were Mark Garfinkel who won, John Dale and John Wagster who each placed second; and Don Brothers and Mark Peffen, who each finished fourth. The following weekend was the Whites Creek Invitational. This tournament was composed of the most competitive teams in the area, including two defending state champion teams from Kentucky and Alabama.

Garfinkel won again and Wagster captured fourth. The next Tuesday, the team trounced Antioch only to lose a disappointing match to Dupont.

The Hillwood Invitational followed with MBA as the favorite. Several unfortunate losses in the semifinals allowed McGavock to edge the Big Red. Garfinkel, Rollins, and Peffen won their divisions. Todd Helm was runner-up, and Brothers and Wagster got third place honors. The following week saw the team get revenge against McGavock while beating BGA in the process. Three days

later, they competed against Overton and Chattanooga Baylor. Despite losing both matches, the team made a good showing.

Going into the District Tournament, Father Ryan was the favorite with MBA and McGavock too close to call for second place. The team roared through the first day, sending six wrestlers to the finals leaving host team Ryan and the Irish supporters stunned. After the consolation round the next day, Coach Williams was all smiles because the tournament had already been won. With no pressure on the finalists, three won their weight divisions (Garfinkel, Dale, and Rollins) while the other three were runners-up (Peffen, Brothers, and Wagster). Winning in the consolation finals were David Briley and Whitfield Hamilton. Todd Helm and Scott Haynes each received fourth place.

The group advanced to the Regionals with an outside chance of winning. However, two weeks in a row of outstanding wrestling was not to be. No group suffered some early losses and received third place honors, losing to Ryan by one point. Garfinkel won his division while Wagster beat Mark Jones from McGavock who had beaten John three times earlier by one point decisions. John Dale placed third, an outstanding accomplishment for a sophomore.

These three wrestlers advanced to the State Tournament. Flustered Wagster lost in the second round as did Dale. However, Garfinkel advanced to the semifinals match against Will Scruggs from Baylor, and pounded him 12-3. This win put Mark in the finals with a chance to become MBA's second state champion. He gained his opponent in the second period, much to the enjoyment of Coach Williams and Coach Gaither. This ended the most successful wrestling season ever at MBA.

## Rifle Team Has Excellent Season

By CARLISLE HERRON

The MBA Rifle Team, with only two seniors returning this year, has once again completed a successful season.

The Rifle Team participates in the Youth Incorporated League, which consists of the rifle teams of several Nashville high schools. Repeating last year's performance, the Rifle Team captured the League Championship, but by only one point. On February 23 and March 1, the team placed fourth out of fifteen teams in the National NRA Sectional Match; this match corresponds to state matches in other sports.

Under the seasoned coaching of Mr. Stevens, Mr. Woolwine, and Mr. Sutton, the members of the Rifle Team began practicing in late November every Wednesday night from six p.m. to eight p.m. They continued this schedule until the first of March. The members are divided into an A team and a B team, both of which participate in all of the matches. Team members are allowed to use standard Youth Incorporated guns or to provide

their own. Present members of the Rifle Team include Rick Sullivan, David Ingram, David Kurtz, captain Steve Stevens, Greer Tidwell, Brad Mangrum, Perry Patterson, Sam Houston, Robert Van, and Rob Hendrick.

The Rifle Team members will be recognized and will be given their awards in assembly this spring. The Rifle Team is to be congratulated for another excellent season, and it is hoped that the members returning next year can repeat the fine performance of this year.

### Varsity Baseball Schedule

April 20	Ryan
April 22	Antioch
April 24	Glencliff
April 27	Overton
April 28	Pearl

May 1...District Tournament